



CITY OF NORTHAMPTON

Mayor Mary Clare Higgins

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March 13, 2006

City Councilor David Narkewicz
Chair, Transportation and Parking Commission
Council Clerk's Office
210 Main Street
Northampton, MA 01060

Dear Councilor Narkewicz,

I am requesting that the Transportation and Parking Commission explore the idea of setting up a Pace Car program here in the City of Northampton in order to slow down traffic. One of the major complaints of residents is the speed of traffic. We do not have enough police officers to patrol the 150 miles of road here in the city. Enforcement alone will not solve our speeding problem. The Pace Car Program is a way to involve a broad group of citizens in the community wide goal of slowing down traffic.

The premise is simple: individual drivers would pledge to drive the speed limit. They would have a sticker on their car that identifies them as a Pace Car participant. The participants would also pledge to be safe and courteous drivers. They would act as powers of example to the community.

This is a way for those of us who are concerned about traffic to put those concerns in action. If even 10 - 20% of drivers participate, the speeds in the entire city would slow down. Other communities such as Boise, Boulder, Atlanta and Santa Cruz have instituted this kind of program and have had success in reducing speeding.

I have included some information about the program for you to consider. Please let me know if you need any further assistance as you study the Pace Car idea.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mary Clare Higgins".

Mary Clare Higgins
Mayor, City of Northampton

CC City Councilor Maureen T.
Carney
William Letendre

Police Chief Russell Sienkiewicz
George Andrikidis
Wayne Feiden

Keith Wilson
David Reckhow
Leslie Stein
Paul Sustick